

Easy access to
Sydney's best walks.

Top 10 Sydney walks



The foreshores of Sydney Harbour are a walker's paradise. Bush trails beckon, just a few minutes away from the city centre, as do opportunities to explore Sydney's colourful history from Aboriginal culture to penal colony to modern metropolis.

This is an exciting city and the way to really tune into its heartbeat is by ferry.

Since the First Fleet dropped anchor in Sydney Cove on January 26, 1788, the ferries have held a special place in the history and development of communities around the shores.

Today, they still capture the essence of one of the most beautiful places on earth.

This publication sets out to introduce visitors, and Sydneysiders, to many unexpected pleasures to be found along the routes of State Transit's network of ferry services.

It covers the favourite harbourside walks—and many of the delightful experiences awaiting those who travel by ferry.

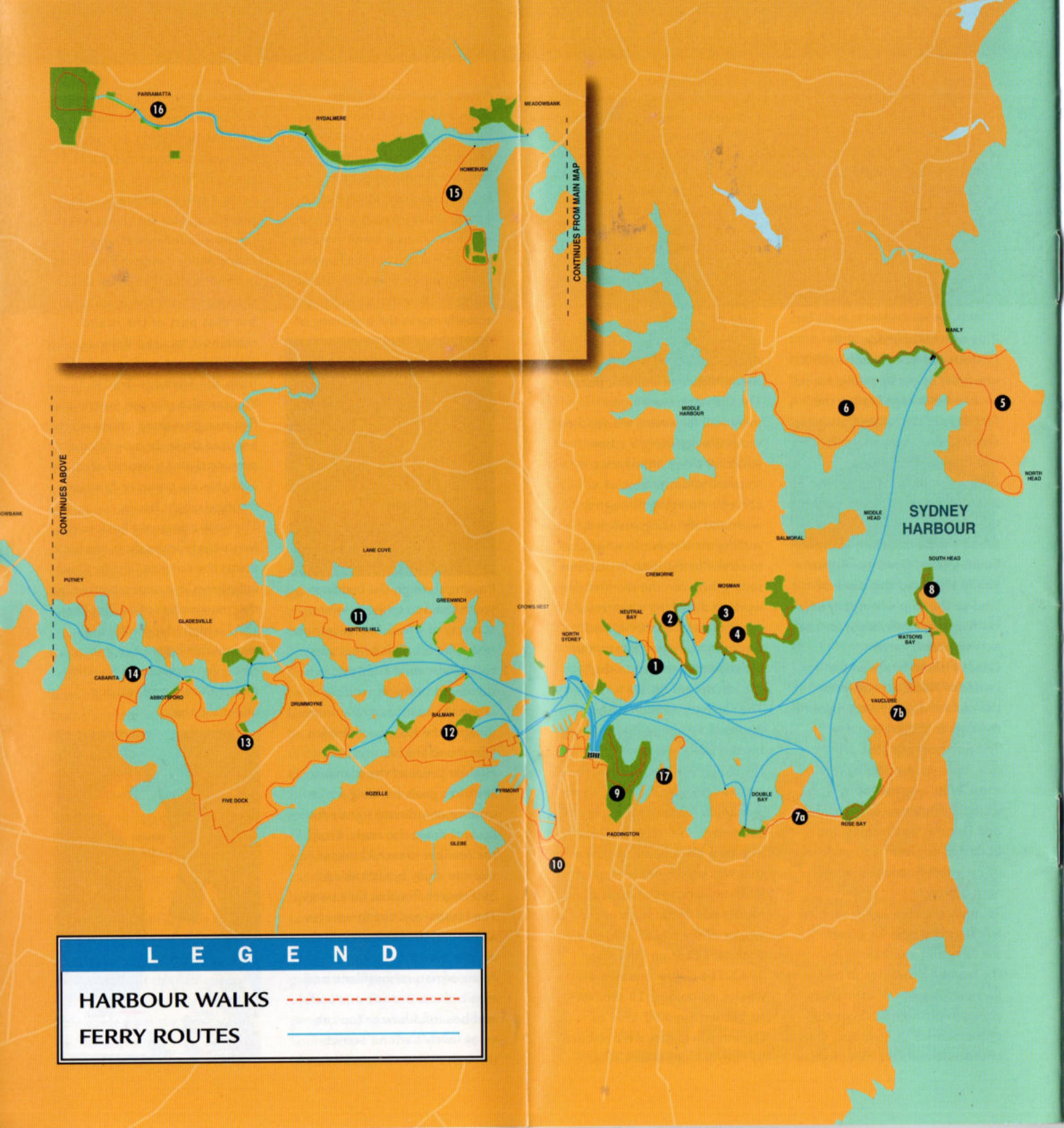
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Sydney Ferries
getting there is half the fun



LEGEND

HARBOUR WALKS

FERRY ROUTES

TIME:	Allow more than an hour.
TYPE OF TERRAIN:	Level and sealed most of the way, with gentle undulations here and there and a few stairs. Suitable for wheelchairs and strollers.
FERRY DEPARTURES:	Neutral Bay ferry departs from Circular Quay every 30 mins Monday to Saturday and approximately every two hours on Sundays.
SUMMARY:	One of the prettiest walks in the harbour with varied flora and rock formations along the way.

Neutral Bay is only 10 minutes by ferry from the city and yet offers one of the most tranquil and scenic walks on the harbour. As you round the point into the bay, two interesting landmarks on the left are the official residences of the Governor-General and the Prime Minister of Australia. Disembark at the Neutral Bay (Hayes Street) Wharf which has wheelchair-friendly ramp access to the street. Stroll up past the shops and turn right at the first corner into Lower Wycombe Road then follow the signs to 'Nutcote', taking the right fork into Wallaringa Avenue. You'll reach 'Nutcote' only about five minutes from the ferry wharf.

It's well worth taking time to browse through 'Nutcote'. It was the home of May Gibbs, renowned children's author whose adventures of Snugglypot and Cuddlepie, featuring Bib and Bub the Gumnut babies, have coloured the imagination of children for many a year. It has been turned into a charming museum which offers guided tours over the house, explaining the life and times and work of May Gibbs. On the street front there is a souvenir shop and below it a tearoom with a terrace over-

looking the harbour. (The museum is open to the public from Wednesday to Sunday, 11am till 3pm and guided tours are available. Phone 9953 4453).

Stroll down the path past the tearoom and through the cottage garden to the yellow stucco house with its paned windows and emerald green shutters nestled right on the harbour foreshore. Walking into the house is like walking back in time. May Gibbs and her husband built the house in 1925 and she lived and worked there for 44 years, drawing inspiration from the banksia and eucalyptus trees hanging over the harbour. You can see her office, complete with ancient typewriter and drawings and cartoons which illustrated her many books. Downstairs, you can view videos featuring the work and times of May Gibbs, explaining the back ground to the "Banksia Men" which scared children for generations. Botanists marvel at the accuracy and plant details in all of her stories which not only delighted children but also made them aware of the flora and fauna of the Australian landscape. From 'Nutcote' continue the short distance to the end of Wallaringa



Avenue, turn left into Spains Wharf Road and walk across Kurraba Road into Hollowforth Avenue and then left into Shellcove



Road. Stroll by the harbourside mansions for about five minutes and turn right into Honda Road which leads you to the entrance to Cremorne Reserve. This is a most pleasant walk among the Sydney Red Gums, Moreton Bay Figs and Banksias, with dramatic rock formations and caves close to the water's edge. You will find plenty of information about the bird life

and the local Aboriginal people who once lived and moved in family groups around these shores. You can enjoy a swim in the McCallum Pool, one of the prettiest public pools in the harbour, and as you approach Cremorne Point you will find a detailed map to help you identify the points of interest in the sweeping panoramas. It is an excellent vantage point from which to enjoy the views of the city skyline, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Opera House, historic Fort Denison in the middle of the harbour and the harbourside suburbs. Not surprisingly, Cremorne Point is a popular place from which to view the major events held on the harbour. You can relax and take a seat at the point to wait for the next ferry back across the harbour to Circular Quay, or you can continue on to the next walk around the shores of Mosman Bay from Cremorne Point to Mosman Bay ferry wharf.



2 THE SHORES OF MOSMAN BAY

TIME:	Allow at least an hour and a quarter.
TYPE OF TERRAIN:	A mainly level sealed pathway with a few steps and undulations. Suitable for wheelchairs and strollers.
FERRY DEPARTURES:	The ferry to Cremorne and Mosman Bay depart from Circular Quay approximately every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday, and hourly on Sundays.
SUMMARY:	A very pleasant and easy walk with panoramic harbour views and intimate glimpses of the yachts at their moorings, tranquil bush and exotic gardens.

You can begin this walk by taking the ferry from Circular Quay to Cremorne or just keep going as an extension of Trip No. 1.

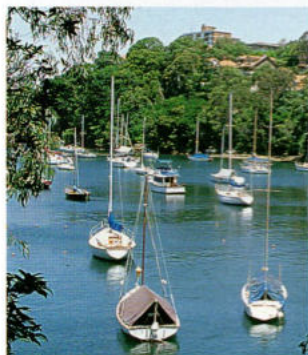
From the Cremorne wharf simply cross the road and climb the stairs opposite. There is an alternative access by wheelchair just a short distance to the left. There are toilets and a playground at the point.

In contrast to today's serenity, the point had a chequered history during the 19th century. A plaque makes fascinating reading.

From it, you can learn that if you were looking for entertainment on Easter Monday, 1856, you could have done no better than to catch a steamer from Circular Quay for the grand opening of the Cremorne Gardens Amusement Park.

The path winds its way between houses and apartments on one side and natural bush descending to the bay on the other. Real estate values in Mosman are very high and some of the houses are worth millions of dollars.

Imagine, therefore, owning the entire area, as James Robertson did early in the 19th century. Robertson, after whom the point is named, was the curator of Governor Brisbane's astronomical



instruments and he was granted 86 acres in 1823!

The walk follows the shoreline around Mosman Bay and numerous short tracks veer off to the rocks where you can enjoy a picnic, or even a spot of fishing if the mood takes you.

Mosman Bay was virgin forest with heavy timber to the water's edge when the First Fleet arrived at the beginning of European settlement in January, 1788. By the 1830s it was a centre of shipping activities, especially whaling, which declined rapidly from 1840.

Today, you will find a mixture of bushland and gardens with magnificent Jacaranda trees, Moreton Bay Figs, Bird of Paradise, flowering shrubs, beautiful ferns and palm trees. It's hard to believe that, at one stage, this part of

the foreshore very nearly became a coal mine, for there are rich deposits of coal under the harbour. An unexpected pleasure along this walk is the area known as

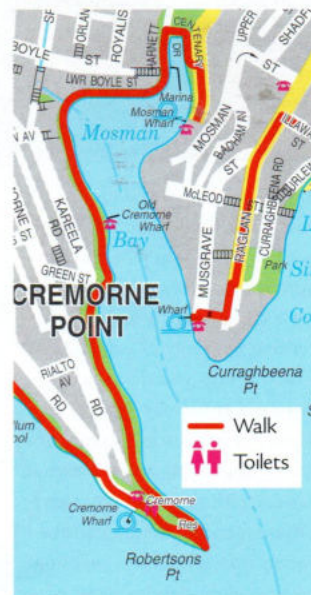


the Lex and Ruby Graham Gardens. You'll find details of this heart-warming story on a plaque which was erected in 1987 in recognition of the dedication of Lex and his wife Ruby in creating these exotic gardens on a purely voluntary basis over many years.

The gardens, which are still beautifully maintained, were granted a special award by the National Trust in 1984.

Lex and Ruby started introducing plants to the sloping land back in 1959. The area had been used as a tip for decades and thickets of weeds covered the junk which ranged from whalebone corsets and a kitchen sink to mattresses, discarded refrigerators, hundreds of bricks and thousands of bottles. They cleared up the mess and used the rubbish as a base for pathways and plants. They planted whatever they could find that would grow happily and friends donated cutting from their gardens. The local council installed garden taps and Lex installed a permanent network of hoses and sprinklers.

It was an enormous labour of love over many years which created a feeling of great peace and tranquillity in the garden which covers no less than a hectare. Further along the track you'll cross quaint little bridges that bring you within just a few minutes to the Mosman Rowing Club, which extends a warm welcome to visitors who can enjoy a meal out on the deck overlooking Mosman Bay. Between "Mosman Rowers" as the club is affectionately known, and the nearby Mosman Wharf is The Barn, one of the oldest surviving buildings from the early colonial period. The only surviving structure of five stone buildings and a 600ft stone wall built by Archibald Mosman in 1831 for his whaling business. It has been used as a scout hall since 1925. You can catch the ferry back to Circular Quay from Mosman Wharf, sailing up the lovely bay and across the main harbour to the city.



TIME:	Allow about 70 minutes.
TYPE OF TERRAIN:	Steep hill on pavement followed by undulating unsealed track, rough in parts and soggy after rain. Unsuitable for wheelchairs.
FERRY DEPARTURES:	Mosman ferry departs from Circular Quay every 30 minutes Monday to Friday and hourly on Sundays. Return ferry fide Athol Wharf (Taronga Zoo) every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday with a slight variation on Sundays.
SUMMARY:	This walk moves from suburban streets to natural bush teeming with bird life.

Board the Mosman ferry at Circular Quay and enjoy the great ferry ride before disembarking at the South Mosman (Musgrave Street) Wharf. You need to be quite fit to tackle this walk because it starts with a steep climb up steps from the wharf to street level. Continue straight across the laneway and follow the signpost to Raglan Street (climbing a lot more steps along Herron Walk). You'll find a very

homes with more than a hint of Tuscany. With its adventure playground and tidal swimming pool, the Sirius Cove Reserve is a favourite venue for family picnics, specially at the weekends. By way of contrast, the remainder of the walk is along shady bush tracks hugging the shores of Little Sirius Cove. Here again, it is difficult to believe that this thriving metropolis is so close.



imposing stone residence as you reach Raglan Street, which is called, fittingly, The Castle. Turn left and follow Raglan Street for a quite lengthy walk before turning right into Illawarra Street which brings you down to water level at Sirius Cove Reserve. There are interesting streetscapes which reflect Mosman's architectural variety with red tiled cottages, ornate facades, an abundance of Federation styles—and seemingly never-ending development of

Along this shoreline, just over 100 years ago, some of Australia's renowned Heidelberg School of artists—Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton amongst them—set up what became known as the Artist's Camp. The site of what was more officially named Curlew Camp is hidden in dense shrub on the eastern side of the cove. It is easy to understand how they found inspiration so close to such beauty. Sirius Cove attracts artists today,

just as much as it lured such enormous talent a century ago. Stay close to the water's edge and the track will bring you to Whiting Beach and then to Taronga Zoo wharf in Athol Bay where you can catch the ferry back to the city. However, while you are here in



Athol Bay, it's well worth taking a stroll around the zoo for a couple of hours of easy walking. Just across the road from the ferry wharf you can hop aboard the Sky Safari, a cable car ride which offers panoramic views of Sydney and the harbour, as well as bird's eye views of the animals during the aerial ascent to the zoo's main

entrance at the top of the hill. Then you can take as long as you like to meander back down through the zoo towards the ferry. As well as exotic animals from around the world, Sumatran Tigers, Elephants, Chimpanzees and many, many others, you can enjoy the Australian wildlife – like the Koalas and Kangaroos—close-up and personal in the Australian Walkabout. There's always something happening, including zoo keeper talks, animal shows and feedings as well as fascinating glimpses of the zoo's work in the conservation of rare and endangered species. It's also worth remembering that a convenient and cost effective way to enjoy Taronga Zoo is with a ZooPass from Sydney Ferries. It includes return ferry from Circular Quay plus admission to the zoo. Tickets are available at the Circular Quay ferry ticketing offices.



TIME:

Allow two hours.

TYPE OF TERRAIN:

Mainly good paved walking track with rocky steps in part. A bit hilly in parts for wheelchairs and strollers.

FERRY DEPARTURES:

Every half-hours from Circular Quay to Taronga Zoo Wharf Monday to Saturday with a slight variation on Sundays.

SUMMARY:

Taronga Zoo is adjacent to large tracts of harbourside national park so there is a good choice of walks covering varying distances and offering great harbour views.

From Taronga Zoo (Athol Wharf) walk up the long hill right alongside the harbour, then take the right fork where the road branches into the Sydney Harbour National Park, a bird and animal sanctuary. You have a choice of three walks, the longest of which takes you around the foreshore to Bradleys Head and on to Taylors Bay and Clifton Gardens to Chowder Bay. Once a strategic observation post and cannon emplacement to protect Sydney Harbour from marauders, Bradley's Head is one of the finest lookout points around the foreshores, with magnificent views stretching the entire length of the main harbour from the city to The Heads. You feel as if you could almost reach out and touch the ferries and pleasure craft as they sail past. Bradley's Head features a tribute to all four Royal Australian Navy ships which have proudly borne the name, HMAS Sydney, including the guided missile frigate which has been in service since 1983. The mast of the first HMAS Sydney stands as a distinctive landmark near the lighthouse right at the point. The ship was a light cruiser that took part in the first Australian



naval engagement of World War I against the German cruiser Emden, near Cocos Island on November 9, 1914.

The mast straddles the semi-circular sandstone parapet built by convict labour in 1839 following a scare when four American warships sailed into port unannounced. That triggered an alarm that if the ships had been hostile "incalculable damage" could have been caused. Guns were installed in 1840 but the battery was not completed until the next scare in 1853 during mounting tension between Britain and Russia before the start of the Crimean War. The fear in those days was that Australia, as an isolated British colony, could face invasion every time it seemed that Great Britain would go to war. On the rock alongside the mast of HMAS Sydney is a stone column from the old Sydney Post Office

which is used to measure one nautical mile from the tower on Fort Denison.

Bradley's Head, with only a few car parking spaces, is usually a quiet place with a handful of visitors and optimistic bird life, like kookaburras and magpies looking for a tasty morsel or two from the picnickers. The nearby stone jetty is a popular fishing spot and the area does become fairly busy in the summertime. One of the advantages of having been the location of one of the most extensive and elaborate defensive systems in Australia is that much of the environment has been protected and this is now the largest intact portion of natural landscape remaining in Sydney's Inner Harbour. From Bradley's Head you can proceed along level boardwalks and footpaths, hugging the



shoreline through the national park to Taylors Bay, Chowder Head and Clifton Gardens before retracing your steps to Athol Wharf at the zoo to catch the ferry back to the city. Another option worth considering once you've taken the ferry to Athol Wharf is to hop aboard the Route 238 bus, right there at the wharf. This short bus ride will take you to spectacular Balmoral Beach where you can stroll along the esplanade, with its cafes, fish shops and restaurants to tempt you along the way.



TIME:	From half an hour to three hours.
TYPE OF TERRAIN:	Paved tracks and ocean beaches. Easy access for wheelchairs and strollers.
FERRY DEPARTURES:	Manly ferries depart from Circular Quay every 30 minutes every day and journey takes half an hour. SuperCats depart roughly every 30 minutes and take only 15 minutes.
SUMMARY:	Stroll along the legendary ocean beach, or to sheltered coves, or to the breathtaking Fairfax Walking Track at North Head.

By ferry, the lively ocean resort of Manly is "Seven miles from Sydney—and a thousand miles from care". It offers a wide variety of excellent restaurants, fish and chip shops, sidewalk cafes, souvenir shops and pubs—and a selection of absorbing walks.

You can head in almost any direction from the ferry wharf and enjoy short walks to tiny bays or a long walk along the famous ocean beaches. Stroll along East Esplanade and you'll find charming Little Manly Cove and Spring Cove on the harbour side of Manly or head along the bustling Corso to the ocean.

Turn left and you will have the famous Manly ocean beach stretching before you—uninterrupted golden sand for about two kilometres.

Alternatively, a right turn along South Steyne promenade will bring you to the shoreline walkway bordered by rugged sea-swept rocks to the lovely beaches at Fairy Bower and Shelly Beach. Take time to walk up the hill from Shelly Beach because the ocean views and dramatic rock formations are well worth the effort. One of the most spectacular walks can be enjoyed on the Fairfax

Walking Track at North Head. To reach it, there is a trek of some four kilometres along the North Head Scenic Road, past the School of Artillery museum and the old Quarantine Station.



Once you reach the Fairfax Walking Track your reward will be spectacular views of the ocean and the harbour from the high vantage point of North Head. It takes only 30 minutes to complete a circuit of the track and wayside exhibitions provide information about the harbour's cultural and natural history. If the lengthy hike to North Head doesn't appeal you can do it the easy way by taking a ride in the special bus shuttle service which departs from Manly Wharf every 30 minutes. Then after circling the Fairfax Walking Track it is an easy downhill walk back to

Manly. It is nicely paved all the way and, with gentle gradients, the Fairfax track is very accessible for those in wheelchairs. A visit to the historic North Head Quarantine Station can be a further pleasant interlude but this must be planned and arranged ahead. The only way into the Quarantine Station is to catch the 135 bus which departs from Manly Wharf – it is the only daily service which actually goes into the quarantine grounds by special arrangement with the National Parks and

Wildlife Service. The Quarantine Station dates back to 1832 and a guided tour will give you some understanding of the plight of early Australian immigrants as you wander through a maze of historic buildings. At least they (and the ghosts which allegedly remain) had great views of Sydney Harbour. The walking tour of the Quarantine Station takes about 90 minutes. Bookings are essential. Phone National Parks and Wildlife on (02) 9977 6522 for further details.



TIME: Three to four hours.

TYPE OF TERRAIN: Mainly not-too-difficult bush tracks.

FERRY DEPARTURES: Manly Ferry and SuperCat details see Trip No. 6. At the end of the walk catch a bus back to Manly Wharf or into the city—they run roughly every 15 minutes.

SUMMARY: One of the most scenic harbour walking tracks in the world.

The scenic walkway from Manly to the Spit Bridge was opened in 1988 and is certainly a memorable harbour walking track.

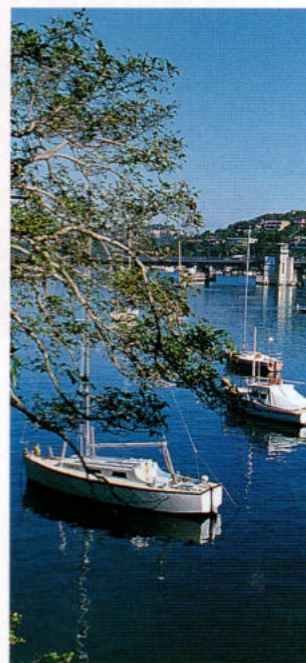
The walk is almost 10 kms long and takes three to four hours at a steady pace in either direction. It provides panoramic views of the entrance to Sydney Harbour and areas of native bushland through which it passes have changed little since the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788.

Contrasting with modern architecture of the harbourside suburbs are Aboriginal sites, pockets of sub-tropical rainforest, rugged cliffs, native coastal heath and sheltered white sand beaches. All Aboriginal and historic sites, flora and fauna are protected so please be aware, no dogs are allowed in the National Park. Highlights include Forty Baskets Beach, named because of a catch of 40 baskets of fish, sent to a contingent of Sudan troops at the North Head Quarantine Station in 1885: Dobroyd Point and Grotto Point which are a mass of wildflowers in spring; Reef Beach and Sydney Red Gum Forest.

Clontarf Beach and Fisher Bay are also part of the scenic walkway. Clontarf, a particularly pleasant



place, is the site of an early picnic ground and dance hall. It gained notoriety on March 12, 1868,



when Queen Victoria's second son, the Duke of Edinburgh, was shot, but only slightly injured while attending a fund-raising picnic in his honour. His would-be

assassin, Irishman James O'Farrell was executed six weeks later.

Fisher Bay, alongside the Spit Bridge, has a much less turbulent history. It is a peaceful little bay in a pocket of sub-tropical rainforest. The Spit Bridge is part of the main road artery linking Manly and the Northern Beaches to the city. It is closed to traffic briefly several times a day when it swings open to allow boats in Middle Harbour to pass beneath it.

From a nearby bus stop you can catch a 143 or 144 bus back to Manly – or in the opposite direction catch a city bound bus back to Circular Quay. Before moving off in either direction, however, it's worth lingering awhile because the views are so great at The Spit. After a long walk, relax and enjoy the view while sipping a well earned coffee or seafood meal at one of the many cafes and restaurants overlooking the water.



TIME: From one hour to best part of a full day.

FERRY DEPARTURES: Ferries depart every 10 or 20 minutes from Circular Quay for Rose Bay between 7.10am and 9.10am (Mon-Fri) then hourly during the afternoon from 1.15pm until the evening. Weekends and public holidays departures approximately every two hours between 9.15am and 6pm.

SUMMARY: The walk from Rose Bay wharf to Double Bay is an easy stroll on mainly level ground. The walk to Watsons Bay is more challenging-five or six kilometres and hilly, but very rewarding.

WALK NO. 1 (7a)

For the gentle walk to Double Bay, head towards the nearby main road, past the Imperial Peking Floating Restaurant where you will often find pelicans resting on the tall light poles. Turn right into New South Head Road and stroll along the waterside esplanade and enjoy the panoramic views across this very wide stretch of Sydney Harbour. Originally a heavily timbered area, Rose Bay is thought once to have been an Aboriginal battleground-its original Aboriginal name was Pannerong, which means blood. Many of the city's most elegant and expensive yachts and cruisers are moored here at Rose Bay-and at weekends the harbour is alive with boats of all shapes and sizes competing in their club regattas.

The Sydney 2000 Olympics have written yet another chapter in the history of this area, with the world's best boats and crews competing on the harbour for Olympic gold. Rose Bay used to be a flying boat base. The first commercial passenger flights from Australia to England left here in 1938, taking travellers on a 10-day flight involving 29 stopovers, including



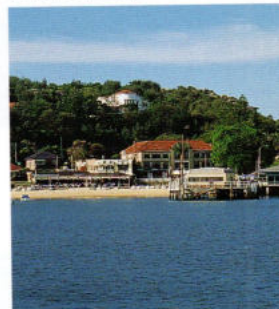
the Sea of Galilee and a lake in Iraq. Later flying boat flights included services to Norfolk Island, Lord Howe Island and Fiji, until being replaced by land-based services in the late 1970s. On any day of the year, there is always something of interest to catch the eye, including the seaplanes taking off and landing as they take their passengers on some of the finest scenic flights you could ever hope to experience. They also provide a service to and from Palm Beach on Sydney's Northern Beaches. Stay on New South Head Road as it swings to the left at the end of the beach. Within a few minutes you will see a signpost to Redleaf Pool and it's well worth taking the short diversion down to the harbourside pool which is surrounded by beautiful landscaped gardens and open to the public. Next to Redleaf Pool is another exquisite swimming area known as Seven Shillings Beach, supposedly

named as such when a Mrs Busby gave an Aboriginal seven shillings compensation for fishing rights. After returning from the water's edge, keep going along New South Head Road and turn right into William Street and then right again into Beach Street. It's just a few metres to the beach and you can stroll along the sand past the boatshed headquarters of Sydney's famous 18-footers. This brings you to Steyne Park which is a wonderful place to picnic as you watch the boats sail by. These services are limited so be sure to check departure times at the wharf. If time permits, a short 5 minute walk will take you to Double Bay's exclusive shopping district featuring many elegant shops, fashionable restaurants and sidewalk cafes. Should you be pressed for time you also have the option of catching a 324 or 325 bus back to the city from New South Head Rd.

WALK NO. 2. (7b)

The alternative walk from Rose

Bay ferry wharf towards Watsons Bay is not for the faint-hearted, but it's well worth the effort. Turn left from the wharf across Percival Park, along the water's



edge past the seaplane base and the tennis courts until you come to Woollahra Sailing Club. Turn right into Vickery Avenue for the short distance to the main road and turn left into New South Head. Just past the shopping centre, the road begins a long climb which has become known (with mixed feelings!) as Heartbreak Hill by the



edge past the seaplane base and the tennis courts until you come to Woollahra Sailing Club. Turn right into Vickery Avenue for the short distance to the main road and turn left into New South Head. Just past the shopping centre, the road begins a long climb which has become known (with mixed feelings!) as Heartbreak Hill by the

each August and Heartbreak Hill is often where the winner can be determined even though there are several more kilometres to Bondi. Take time out at the top of the hill to admire the breathtaking views from Kincoppal, formerly known as Rose Bay Convent, which was built in the late 1800s by an order of French nuns, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The spectacular views offer sweeping panoramas of the main harbour and the city skyline, complete with the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House in profile. Turn left into Vaucluse Road and follow the signs to Nielsen Park and on your left you will find Strickland House, an Eastern Suburbs landmark which for many years dating from World War I until 1989, was a Women's Convalescent Hospital. It now is a popular reception venue for weddings and much in demand as a location for shooting movies and television commercials.

A little further along Vaucluse you will find the entrance to Nielsen Park, set in Sydney Harbour National Park. This is one of Sydney's most popular picnic grounds and swimming spots, with a netted harbour pool, white sandy beach and a quaint tea kiosk where refreshments are available. By now, you may well be in the mood for a swim and a rest in the shade of the beautiful trees before resuming the walk through the very elegant homes of Vaucluse.

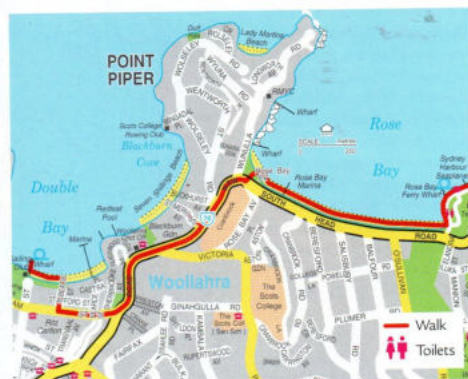
Exit the park into Greycliffe Avenue and on to Coolong Road and Wentworth Road, following the signs to Vaucluse House, a stately home which gave the suburb its name.

Vaucluse House began as a stone cottage, built in 1803 by Sir Henry Brown Hayes, an Irish adventurer said to have been transported to Sydney for abducting a wealthy Irish heiress and forcing her to marry him. In its landscaped gardens and furnished in the colonial style of the landed gentry, it is one of the city's great stately homes-and another favourite place for a wedding. Resume the walk along Wentworth Road into Fitzwilliam Road and, if you have energy to spare, it's worth taking a short diversion into Parsley Bay, another pleasant harbourside reserve.

From Fitzwilliam Road, turn left into Hopetoun Avenue and on through the hilly terrain, turning left at the roundabout towards Robertson Park. Take the pathway past Dunbar House to the fishing village of Watsons Bay where you can reward yourself with a cool drink and fine

seafood. For this well-earned refreshment you can adjourn to the beer garden of the pub, or one of the restaurants around Fishermans Wharf, before catching the ferry back to Circular Quay from the Watsons Bay

Wharf (check the timetable). All along this lengthy walk you have the option of continuing only as far as you want to because you can hop onto a 324 or 325 bus back to the city.



WATSONS BAY

TIME:	Walks can range from 30 minutes to half a day.
TYPE OF TERRAIN:	Mostly paved footpaths but rough and steep around South Head.
FERRY DEPARTURES:	From Circular Quay to Watsons Bay hourly between 10.15am and 3.15 Monday to Friday and approximately every two hours between 9.15am and 6pm at weekends.
SUMMARY:	This walk offers stunning harbour and ocean views, sheltered little beaches and a hint of the lifestyles of the rich and famous.

A fishing village atmosphere still lingers around Fishermans Wharf at Watsons Bay, with cottages fronting the little beach—and upturned dinghies lined up along the sand, providing sailors with easy access to their yachts moored close by.

Watsons Bay was named after the quartermaster on board the First Fleet flagship HMS Sirius. The area was one of the first settled by the early colonists and in 1847 a group of Portuguese who had deserted from an American whaling vessel built homes around the bay to ply their fishing trade. Their descendants worked in the area for many years. This has always been a popular part of Sydney. In the early days it attracted many of Sydney's elite to its quiet foreshores, whilst large numbers flocked to the area at the weekends. Much the same applies today, except it is no longer the preserve of the elite (although it does cost a lot of money to buy a house here). It is so crowded at weekends, specially during summer, that finding somewhere to park is often impossible. That's one of the reasons that ferry travel is so popular. Back in the early part of the 19th century, a road was built

to link Watsons Bay with the city to allow official and commercial messengers to meet incoming ships anchored at Watsons Bay for inspection of papers. The practice of large vessels berthing at Watsons Bay gradually came to an end, with the change from sail to steam, but today's big passenger liners and merchant ships still pick up their pilot just off Watsons Bay to navigate them up the harbour.

From the Watsons Bay ferry wharf, it's only a short stroll past the cottages into Cove Street and Pacific Street to Laings Point and the pretty little beach at Camp Cove. This is where Captain Arthur Phillip set up camp as he explored the harbour to determine the best anchorage for the First Fleet back in January 1788.

This is commemorated by a plaque. Continuing along the national park, the official nude beach of Lady Bay is on the left, just short of South Head and the Hornby Lighthouse which provides spectacular panoramic views of the harbour and out across the Pacific Ocean.

Now you can retrace your steps to the ferry wharf and make a momentous and difficult decision: whether to enjoy the splendid

seafood at the pub or the famous Doyles Restaurants on the wharf and virtually on the beach, or to keep on walking. No matter which direction you

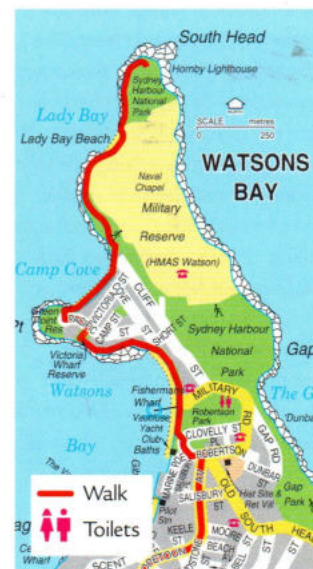
(To keep on walking you can either head for the cliffs at The Gap or turn right) through the streets of the rather splendid suburb of Vaucluse. It is certainly worth-



choose, there are several interesting walks in this area. These include a nature walk up to the top of the cliff face overlooking the ocean and through the National Park to the naval establishment, HMAS Watson. A short distance south you can enjoy magnificent ocean views from the clifftop at The Gap. It's also easy to imagine how treacherous these waters are, as the waves dash and swirl over the rocks below. There has been many a tragedy and the most notorious of these happened on August 20, 1857. The captain of the sailing ship Dunbar, mistook the bay at The Gap for the entrance to Sydney Harbour, with devastating results. The ship, with 122 souls on board was wrecked on the rocks. The catastrophe was only discovered the next day and there was only one survivor, who managed to cling to the rocks for 36 hours. The Dunbar Memorial Lookout recalls the tragedy. From the Gap, you can turn right

while cutting across from the main road of Hopetoun Avenue and into Burrabirra Avenue to spend an hour or so at the historic Vaucluse House.

The fine old building is in beautiful condition, reflecting the lifestyle of the early 19th century and containing superb furniture and many interesting artefacts.



THE OPERA HOUSE, THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND THE ROCKS

TIME:	Allow up to a full day, but it can be broken up into shorter sections from an hour upwards which are also enjoyable.
TYPE OF TERRAIN:	Paved and undulating. Easy access for wheelchairs and strollers.
SUMMARY:	From the Circular Quay ferry wharves, this walk takes you to the world famous Sydney Opera House, the magnificent Royal Botanic Gardens, the historic buildings along Macquarie Street to where modern Australia was born—The Rocks at Sydney Cove.

Walk around Circular Quay East to the Opera House forecourt and the gate into the Royal Botanic Gardens can be found just past the Man O'War Wharf. At this point you can follow the footpath around the water's edge of Farm Cove to Mrs Macquaries Chair at the point before doubling back to the botanic gardens. Mrs Macquaries Chair, which is a cave like rock formation at the point, was a favourite haunt of Governor Macquarie's wife. Today, it is a favourite vantage point for photographers. This is a most pleasant walk, offering fabulous harbour views ...or you can just enter the gardens from the Opera House forecourt. The gardens occupy 30 hectares in the heart of the city, displaying an outstanding collection of plants from Australia and overseas. The gardens are open every day from 6.30am to sunset and free guided walks depart from the Visitor Centre every day at 10.30am. These guided walks take between one and one and a half hours, and you can relax afterwards with a coffee at the kiosk or a meal at the restaurant. Areas of particular interest are the historical Palm Grove, the



exquisite Rose Garden and the Sydney Tropical Centre. From the Botanic Gardens you can stroll along Macquarie Street with its fine historic buildings including the Library of NSW, Parliament House, Sydney Hospital, the Mint and the convict-built Hyde Park Barracks. The barracks give you some idea of what life was like in those early convict days, with rows of hammocks in the stark dormitories—and poignant audio recordings depicting conversations that could well have taken place in the dead of night, reflecting the despair and homesickness of the inmates. Follow Macquarie Street back to Circular Quay and walk past the ferry wharves to the western shore of Sydney Cove and this brings you to The Rocks. With buildings dating back to

the first years of European settlement, the area is a showcase of early history and architecture in Australia. Originally a bawdy harbourside precinct, The Rocks



of today combines the best of Australian arts and crafts, with a range of inviting restaurants, galleries and lively pubs, all housed in beautifully restored heritage buildings. At the weekends, you can shop at

fascinating undercover street stalls and enjoy the festive atmosphere of The Rocks Market. Call into The Sydney Visitors Centre at 106 George Street (it's easy to find) and you can pick up a heap of information about The Rocks that will help you make the most of your visit. They can book you into one of the guided walks, or provide you with less costly self guided tour information. The map for this tour provides fascinating information about the origins of 32 of the most significant historic buildings in The Rocks— and their chequered history before many of them became today's very smart cafes, restaurants and galleries. The Sydney Visitors Centre is open from 9am to 6pm every day of the year and you can phone them on (02) 9255 1788.



DARLING HARBOUR PROMENADE

TIME:	An hour to half a day.
TYPE OF TERRAIN:	Paved and level. Wheelchair and stroller friendly.
FERRY DEPARTURES:	Every half hour from Circular Quay.
SUMMARY:	A vibrant, top quality entertainment complex with pleasant parks, gardens and fountains.

It's just a short distance around Darling Harbour, so if you stay focused and walk briskly you could cover it in well under an hour—but then you'd miss out on a lot of fun. So it's worth taking a ferry ride to the Darling Harbour Wharf at the Sydney Aquarium and taking the brisk walk around to the Pyrmont Bay Wharf at the other end—then return slowly and enjoy the many diversions along the way.

There aren't many places where you can walk in a park, sit by a lake, visit a museum, play tennis, watch sharks being fed, see a cabaret show, grab a snack or sit down to a sumptuous seafood dinner and enjoy free entertainment, without having to cross the road.

Well, that's Darling Harbour—the entertainment, leisure and convention hub of Sydney. It has become an urban oasis at sea level surrounded by the city's high-rise development—a giant amphitheatre sporting dynamic modern architecture, museums, shops, restaurants, cafes, bars and imaginative programs of entertainment.

You can visit the IMAX theatre with its awesome gigantic screen or wander up the hill to the Star



City casino; you can stroll across the historic sandstone and iron Pyrmont Bridge or take a ride on the monorail for a bird's eye view of the whole scene.

You can be immersed in Australia's fascinating maritime history at the Australian National Maritime Museum or wonder at the achievements made in this country's industry, science and technology at the Powerhouse Museum located in Harris St; you can stroll around Cockle Bay to the Sydney Exhibition & Convention Centre where international conferences and major events are held or walk under water to view the astonishing marine life at The Sydney Aquarium.

You can go shopping, or dine at a fine restaurant—or sip a glass of ale at the Pump House boutique brewery.

A Darling Harbour walk would be incomplete without visiting

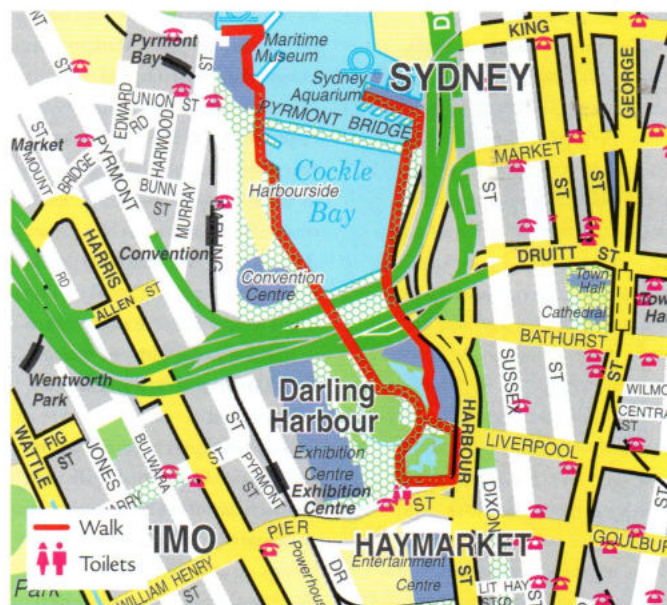
the magnificent Chinese Garden, the largest outside of China, which was a gift from the Province of Guangdong, and if you do feel like crossing the road, there's plenty

a busy industrial centre developed there. Markets, mills, warehouses and an extensive rail network were built to support the shipping terminal. Australia's first industrial



of good eating at Chinatown. The Darling Harbour area was originally called "Tumbalong" by the people of the Aboriginal EORA Nation. The name means "many shellfish", reflecting a natural feature discovered by early European settlers who changed the name to "Cockle Bay". In 1826, Governor Darling officially named the area Darling Harbour. Through to the end of the 19th century and into the 20th century,

steam mill, Dickson's Mill, was built at Darling Harbour in 1815 and Sydney's first Pump House was built nearby in 1891. The Pump House still exists today (converted to a boutique brewery), as does the first working power station in NSW, (now the Powerhouse Museum). In Cockle Bay you will find the beautifully restored South Steyne Manly Ferry. Now a floating restaurant, it is an elegant reflection of steam travel on Sydney Harbour.



TIME: Three to four hours.

TYPE OF TERRAIN: Good footpaths with two steep hills.

FERRY DEPARTURES: From Circular Quay to Woolwich (Valentia St), roughly on an hourly basis Monday to Friday; every hour on Saturdays and Public Holidays—and every two hours on Sundays. The ferry trip takes between 15 and 22 minutes, depending on number of stops on way.

SUMMARY: A stroll past magnificent historic houses and through beautiful parks and gardens.

The ferry trip to Woolwich on the attractive Lane Cove River makes an inviting change. A signpost at the wharf gives you a potted history of the area: Hunters Hill is thought to have been named after Captain John Hunter who arrived with the First Fleet in 1788. He was instrumental in charting and surveying the Harbour and its reaches.

The district features some fine examples of colonial architecture. In the mid-1850s two enterprising brothers, Didier and Jukes Joubert employed stonemasons from Italy and France and set about building many of the sandstone houses that today are unique features of Hunters Hill.

It is worth catching a 538 bus from the ferry wharf (the only day you cannot do this is Sunday because while the ferries operate the buses do not) up the fairly steep hill as far as the Hunters Hill Primary School in Alexandra Street on the corner of Stanley Road. This stone building with slate roof was opened by Sir Henry Parkes (the Father of the Federation) in 1870. Once there, you can enjoy the downhill walk around



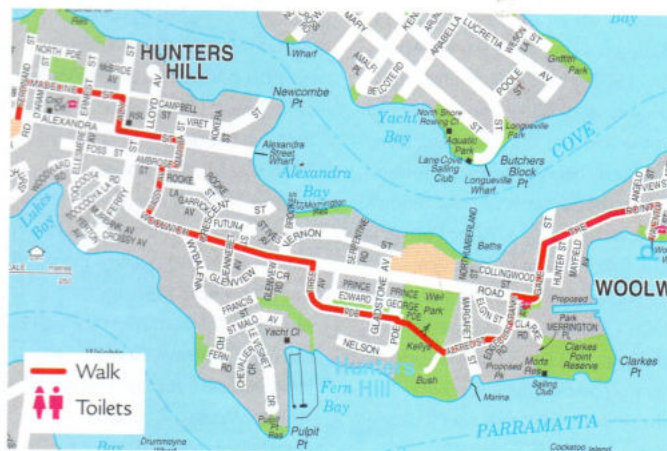
some truly magnificent historic gardens and houses. From the bus stop it is worth strolling around Stanley Road to the rear of the school, where you will find more fascinating architecture in the school grounds. From there, the best way to appreciate all the fine houses and stunning water views is to

continue around the block to your starting point at the bus stop. Then cross the road into Ferdinand Street and follow a somewhat twisting route along Madeline Street, Ady Street, Alexandra Street, Martha Street, Passy Avenue, Garrick Avenue, Futuna Street, Woolwich Road, then right into Tirie Avenue. This brings you to Kelly's Bush Reserve for the homeward trek



along Alfred Street and down towards the wharf. Back at the ferry wharf, the potted history also reveals that this is part of the Great North Walk,

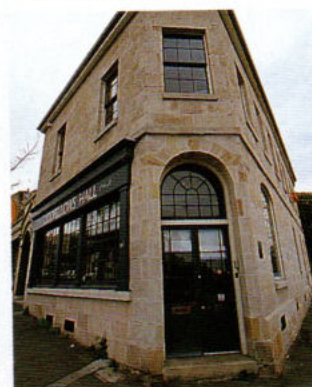
Australia's most accessible walking track network linking Sydney and Newcastle...but that's another story!



12 BALMAIN HISTORY TRAIL

TIME:	Allow at least half a day.
TYPE OF TERRAIN:	All paved, with some steep hills and stairs, but plenty of options for wheel-chairs and strollers.
FERRY DEPARTURES:	Circular Quay to Balmain East (Darling St) every 30 minutes throughout most of the day, every day. The ferry trip, via Milsons Pt and McMahon's Pt, takes 15 minutes.
SUMMARY:	This is a stroll through history, featuring fine and humble buildings and reflecting a community very much aware of, and proud of, its history.

Place. That is where the winged keel was handcrafted for the America's Cup winning yacht in 1983–Australia II. Armed with a copy of the informative



map produced by the Balmain Association, it is an easy matter to set out to explore Balmain at your own pace (which you can pick up from the local newsagent's near the ferry wharf).

All the places of interest are clearly identified on an easy-to-read street map and a potted history of each highlight adds further interest. The development of the Balmain

History Trail was inspired by one of Balmain's best-known residents, Australian Olympic swimming star, Dawn Fraser. Holder of eight Olympic and eight Commonwealth Games medals, she broke no fewer than 39 world records during her distinguished career—including gold for the 100 metres freestyle in three consecutive Olympics between 1956 and 1964. One of Sydney Ferries RiverCats is named the Dawn Fraser in her honour.

There are so many places of interest in Balmain that you can choose to follow a circle route which brings you back to Balmain East (Darling St) ferry wharf—or stick to the Balmain History Trail which takes you on to Birchgrove. From Birchgrove Wharf, you can catch the ferry back to Circular Quay. Either way, you will be able to absorb plenty of Australian social history while enjoying the vast range of architecture—and the delights of this very colourful café society.

As well as its history, which oozes from every corner, Balmain has become remarkably well endowed with cafes, restaurants and food outlets of every description. It is well worthwhile taking time to enjoy a coffee or two, or lunch in one of the atmospheric old pubs, of which there are plenty.

As soon as you leave the ferry, you can find evidence of Balmain's links with Sydney's early colonial days. Right across the street from the ferry wharf, you'll find a stone building dating back to 1846 which was once the Shipwrights Arms, providing a meeting place for whalers, sailors, ferrymen and residents. It remains architecturally intact and used as commercial premises, but no longer a pub. There is an air of mystery about Balmain's origins. Back on April 26, 1800—just 12 years after the beginning of European settlement in the form of the First Fleet from England, NSW Governor Hunter granted 550 acres to the colony's principal surgeon, William Balmain. The following year, Balmain mysteriously sold the land to John Gilchrist of Calcutta for five shillings (50 cents) and nobody seems to know why. Even in those days, 50 cents was a pretty good bargain!



There is a sign in the little park at the Darling Street ferry wharf which points the visitor towards the Balmain History Trail. Displaying a map, with a brief reference to features of interest, it is a useful introduction to exploring Balmain by foot. The Balmain History Trail goes through the streets of Balmain and adjoining Birchgrove. Numerous features include Hampton Villa where the "Father of Federation", Sir Henry Parkes lived while Premier of NSW from 1888 to 1892; the Watch House built in 1854 as a "lock-up"; the homes and business locations of many leading Australians including the 11th Prime Minister of Australia, William Morris Hughes, the late Governor-General Sir John Kerr and former Premier Neville Wran. Another highlight is No 1 Jubilee

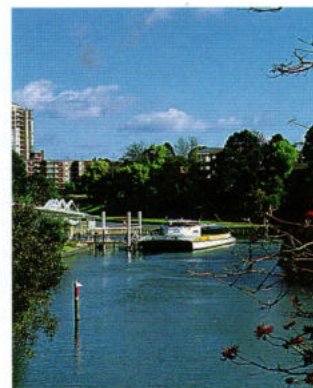


TIME:	Allow an hour to half a day for a choice of walks.
TYPE OF TERRAIN:	Mostly level and paved with some slight inclines. Easy wheelchair access.
FERRY DEPARTURES:	Catch Rydalmere RiverCat or HarbourCat from Circular Quay to Abbotsford. Departures approx every hour.
SUMMARY:	Pleasant water views across the gently active river, interesting streetscapes and parks and fine waterfront dining at the rowing club.

headmaster of Five Dock Public School from 1865-66.

From Henry Lawson Park, follow the paved riverside walk along Wymston Parade which skirts Hen and Chicken Bay and then you can either retrace your steps to the ferry wharf or continue on the Bicentennial Walkway. Cut inland along a short section of Great North Road, turning into Barnstaple Road and across Five Dock Park and Timbrell Park—and back to the riverside in Iron Cove.

The very pleasant walk then hugs the shoreline to Rodd Point, Half Moon Bay, Sisters Bay, Drummoyle Bay and Abbotsford Bay to your starting point at the ferry wharf. Before hopping aboard the ferry for the trip back to Circular Quay,



it is well worth adjourning to the Sydney Rowing Club right at the ferry wharf. At weekends the river is alive with pleasure craft including the rowers who still keep alive the traditions of some of the country's top rowing clubs—which often have set new world and Olympic standards in the sport.

Parramatta River was once a lifeline between the food producing farms and gardens of Parramatta and the hungry early settlers around Sydney Cove.

State Transit's sleek purpose built, low wash RiverCats and HarbourCats now bring new standards of comfort and elegance to public transport as they glide past beautiful foreshore homes and parks along the river.

Disembark at Abbotsford and you can enjoy a short walk along the river shore or embark on the stimulating 16km route around the peninsula which is known as the Drummoyle Bicentennial Foreshore Walkway.

Whichever you choose, it begins with a short walk up the hill from the ferry wharf past the Sydney Rowing Club to a delightful little park called Quarantine Reserve. This is where bloodstock horses, dogs and farm animals (cattle, goats, pigs and sheep) used to be quarantined after being shipped in from overseas, in order to prevent unwanted exotic diseases. Once located at Bradleys Head where Taronga Zoo now stands, the animal quarantine station at Abbotsford was built between 1918 and 1920. It once occupied more than five

acres of land and still today, you can find well-maintained empty horse stables and dog pens as reminders of the once busy riverside activity as barges brought the animals up river to be quarantined. The animal quarantine station moved to its present site at Eastern Creek in 1980.

Not far from the reserve with its splendid picnic facilities is another little oasis which commemorates one of the area's favourite sons—Henry Lawson Park. Indeed, this part of the Parramatta River was rich in Australian music and literature.

Just across the river from the Rowing Club stands the fine waterfront homestead where Banjo Paterson lived with his grandmother while attending Sydney Grammar School. It is now a restaurant. Local authorities will be happy to reveal that the tune of Australia's national anthem "Advance Australia Fair" was written by Peter McCormich who was



14 CABARITA AND KISSING POINT (PUTNEY)

TIME:	Allow one hour for each walk.
TYPE OF TERRAIN:	Mixture of level paved pathways and rocky beach. Wheelchair and stroller access except for beach which can be avoided.
FERRY DEPARTURES:	Rydalmere-bound ferries call at Cabarita Wharf and Kissing Point (Putney), departing at 9am and every hour between 9.50am and 1.50pm, Mon to Fri, and hourly between 8.50am and 5.50pm weekends and public holidays.
SUMMARY:	Easy walks through pleasant little waterfront parks on both sides of the river.

Alight at Cabarita Wharf and proceed straight into the delightful Cabarita Park with its sloping lawns, picnic spots and barbecue areas right on the shores of the Parramatta River.

Stroll along the sandy beaches to the Marina where you can pause for refreshments at the kiosk or have lunch at the licensed restaurant overlooking the river. Just a little further along, you will come to the public swimming pool which can be very tempting on a hot sunny day.

On the bank of the river, just before you reach the marina, there is an obelisk which was erected as a monument to William Beach, the undefeated champion sculler of the world who died in 1935.

The Parramatta River has always been a mecca for rowers and numerous rowing clubs are housed along the river, serving rowers from all over the metropolitan area. Near the entrance to Cabarita Park, sheltering in the shade of magnificent old Moreton Bay Fig trees, is a beautiful timber Federation style pavilion which is a popular and romantic venue for weddings. The pavilion has an interesting history. Before

being relocated to this little park up the river it originally stood in Centennial Park, in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs. During the Inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia on January 1, 1901, it was used for the Administration of the Oath of Office to the Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun. If you want to spend more time exploring this area, you could proceed out of the park and follow Cabarita Road, Dorking Road, Collingwood Avenue and Phillips Street to arrive at Cape Cabarita, a massive new housing development clustered around

Hen and Chicken Bay.

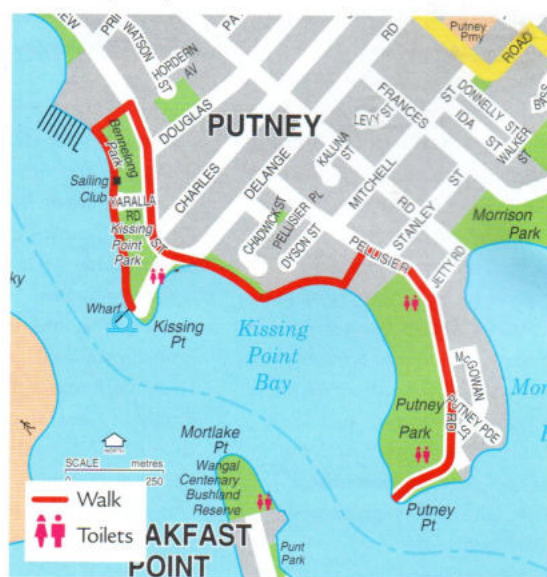
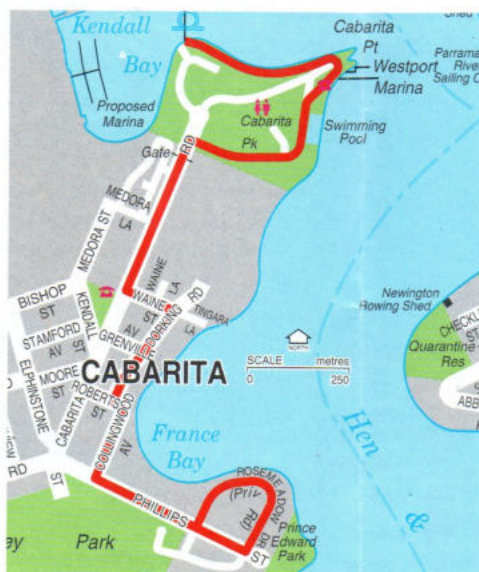
It is a private complex of town houses and apartments, complete with its own private Rotunda wharf. This development is typical of those springing up all along the river, turning what was once ugly industrial sites into much sought-after river-front dwellings.

On the other hand, after enjoying the tranquillity of Cabarita Park for an hour, you can hop aboard the next ferry for the short trip across the river to the next stop at Kissing Point for a bit of exploring in Putney.

Turning left from the ferry wharf will bring you into Kissing Point Park which offers striking panoramic views. The rather elaborate building at the water's edge across the river is the Watergate which is only used on special occasions these days, but was a busy landing during the 19th century for the historic buildings in the estate behind it. At low tide in those days, ships

often touched the bottom of the river—hence the name, Kissing Point. Walk through the park along the river where water birds peck in amongst the mangroves through to Bennelong Park. It's worth turning back to the ferry wharf at this stage to follow the waterside path around Kissing Point Bay and then along the Kings School Boatshed. From there, you can head up a short distance to Pelliser Road and follow it round to Putney Park, where the road comes to a sudden end at the water's edge.

Putney Point, as it's called, holds a special significance on the river because it is the northern end of the last remaining punt ferry which links Putney with Mortlake. Retrace your steps and if you walk briskly you can be back at Kissing Point Wharf in time to catch the next ferry back to the city.



TIME: Allow one and a half hours.

TYPE OF TERRAIN: Level pathways and boardwalks with easy wheelchair and stroller access.

FERRY DEPARTURES: Catch the Rydalmere-bound RiverCat or HarbourCat from Circular Quay to Homebush Bay. Departs approx. every hour. A bus meets you at the ferry wharf for the short drive to Bicentennial Park.

SUMMARY: A variety of walks and activities in this park adjacent to Sydney's Olympics complex.

Strolling along the boardwalk through the mangroves, with sunlight filtering through the branches is a magical, unforgettable experience. The mangrove boardwalk is a 500-metre path allowing you to walk through the forest without damaging the fragile environment.

The mangroves stabilise the foreshores and act as natural filters for the waterways. They also provide habitats and rich feeding sites for many birds and animals. Dozens of bird species have been spotted there, featuring such delightful species as the Dusky Moorhen, Purple Swampphen, Little Pied Cormorant and the Clamorous Reed Warbler.

The boardwalk is just one of several short walks in the park's 100 hectares which can be combined to keep you absorbed for well over an hour. They include the Lake Belvedere walk of about 26 minutes and the Bird Refuge Walk of 18 minutes. The Water Bird Refuge is one of three important sites for wading birds in the Sydney metropolitan area and the many regular visitors include Heron, Egret, Black-winged Stilt and Pelicans.

The park's centrepiece, the 17-metre Treillage (lattice) Tower,



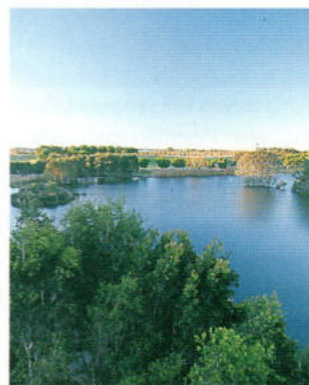
offers excellent 360-degree views from the Olympics complex to the Sydney skyline and there are plenty of picnic areas under the trees. On the way to Bicentennial Park from the city of Sydney, the ferry trip up the Parramatta River is an adventure on its own. Once referred to as the "forgotten river", this historic waterway is undergoing an amazing renaissance as industry gives way to massive residential development along its banks.

Bicentennial Park was created to protect and conserve the area's remaining wetlands, as well as to provide recreational parkland for public enjoyment. Established in 1988 to commemorate 200 years of European settlement in

Australia, the park covers some 100 hectares.

It was the first major example of the environmental rehabilitation of Homebush Bay that was continued with the most impressive development of the Homebush site of Sydney's 2000 Olympic Games. In contrast to the bustling Olympic Site, Bicentennial Park is a great place to relax and appreciate the wonders of the local flora and fauna, whilst also offering superb panoramic views of the massive Olympic stadiums and facilities.

The park serves to promote the principles of Conservation, Education and Recreation—and you can find abundant information, including maps, at the Visitor



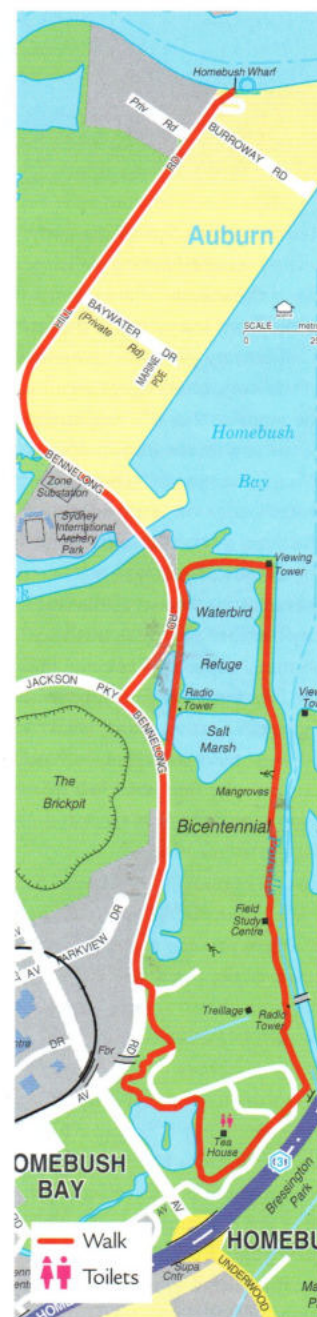
Centre to help you explore the area by foot.

A browse through the Visitor Centre can be very rewarding, with a range of interactive displays from which you can learn much about the birds of the wetlands, which birds live on lakes, mangroves, mudflats or in the forest—and even follow the paths of migratory birds from as far away as Japan, China and Siberia.

Bicentennial Park is open every

day of the year from sunrise to sunset and admission is free.

A number of tours are offered and you can phone the park on (02) 9763 1844 for details.



- TIME:** Three hours to a full day.
- TYPE OF TERRAIN:** Mostly level footpaths with some gentle slopes. Wheelchair and stroller friendly.
- FERRY DEPARTURES:** RiverCats depart from Circular Quay every hour, on the hour, every day, with slight variations at lunchtime. The trip takes 50 minutes.
- SUMMARY:** A walk through streets and parks loaded with early colonial history and heritage.

Retracing the steps of the early settlers whose farming skills saved the colony of New South Wales from starvation in the late 18th century gives you some idea of the huge challenges faced by the pioneers. For the final stretch of the trip to the Parramatta Wharf, mangroves grow to the water's edge on both sides of the river, as they have done for thousands of years.

Parramatta is known as the cradle city because of it gave birth to so many aspects of colonial life—the first ferry, the first successful farm, the first vineyard, legal brewery, land grant, jail, orchard, tannery, the first road link from Sydney and the first recorded racehorse meeting. Just a short stroll up Charles St from the ferry brings you to George St where you can either turn right towards the many delightful features of Parramatta Park, or turn left towards some real gems of history. A worthwhile option it is to walk along the 8.5km route of the Parramatta Heritage Fun Run. Details of this self-guided tour are contained in a handy little guide from the Roads and Traffic Authority which you can obtain from the Sydney Ferries



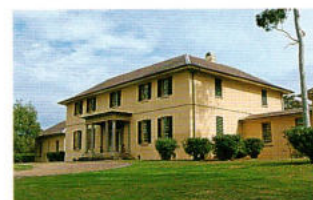
Information Office at Circular Quay or from the Parramatta Information Centre. The guide describes the historical highlights as you will progressively encounter them by turning left into George Street. They include: Experiment Farm Cottage in Ruse Street, which was built by Surgeon John Harris between 1798 and 1836 and stands on the first land grant in Australia. In Alice Street, you will find Elizabeth Farm, Australia's oldest cottage which was built in 1794 for John and Elizabeth Macarthur, who laid the foundations of Australia's agriculture and wool industry. Hambledon Cottage, built in 1824 by John Macarthur for Penelope Lucas, the retired governess to his three daughters. Then comes Riverside Walk which gives an indigenous perspective of the Parramatta River and its people, leading to a Reconciliation Soundscape on the riverbank; Lennox Bridge, built by convict

gangs of 300 or more who had to clank down the streets in chains; Brislington, now a hospital museum which was built as an inn by John Hodges.

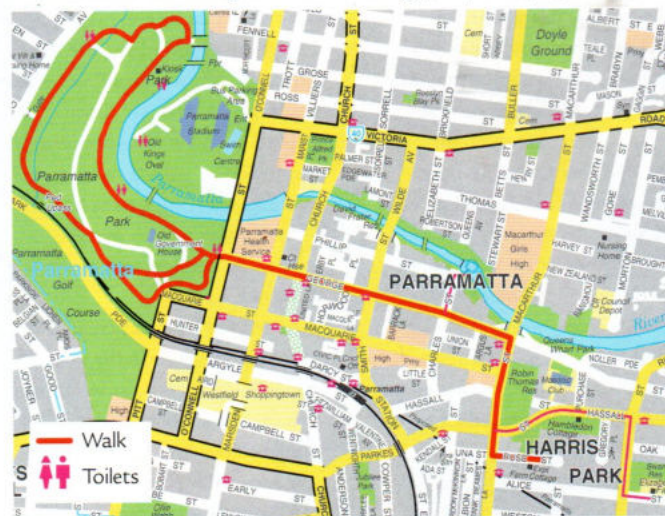


The George Street Gatehouse has been the main entrance to Parramatta Park (originally the Governor's Domain) since 1788; St John's Anglican Cathedral and the nearby cemetery (the oldest in Australia) where you find the traces of pioneers that reveal much about the early colonial history. Old Government House in Parramatta Park is one of the country's most significant historic houses. Governor Phillip built a cottage on the site in 1790 and the archeological

remains of his simple abode can still be seen. Governor Hunter and Governor Macquarie built the existing house between 1799 and 1818. It houses Australia's finest collection of pre-1855 colonial furniture. In the Cumberland Hospital are the remains of the Female Factory, designed by Francis Greenway in 1820. Its 1st and 2nd class prisoners served their time spinning and weaving. It should be noted that those buildings that do invite the public to enjoy their treasures



are not all open everyday and some do charge a modest admission fee. The best way to check is to contact the Parramatta Information Centre at 346 Church Street, Parramatta (beside the Lennox Bridge), or phone (02) 9630 3703.



TIME:	From 45 minutes upwards
TYPE OF TERRAIN:	Good footpaths, mainly level, however, there are a lot of steps in certain areas. Some gentle undulations and special wheelchair access features.
FERRY DEPARTURES:	Check timetables (From October, 2000).
SUMMARY:	A short walk that can be completed comfortably in just 20 minutes or so, if vigorous exercise is your aim, but the special ambience and history of this place can easily captivate you for an hour or two.

This new harbourside walk (introduced from October 2000 onwards) opens up public access to a new Heritage Trail in the footsteps of the earliest European settlers, just a very short ferry trip from Circular Quay. Only a few days after the First Fleet anchored in nearby Sydney Cove on January 26, 1788, to found the penal colony of New South Wales, Governor Arthur Phillip allocated this piece of land to the ship's company of his flagship, HMS Sirius, for use as a vegetable garden.

Garden Island has been the centre of Naval activity from the earliest days of settlement through to the present day. The northern end (the precinct now open to the public) retains some of its original topography, including a mixture of indigenous and cultural landscaping and buildings, together with evidence of early fortifications and the rock carvings.

To enjoy the Heritage Trail, turn left after disembarking from the ferry and stroll along by the lawns on the edge of the harbour. A series of memorials commemorates the Navy's role in the defence of Australia. One of them honours the 55 Corvettes

of World War 11 and the Australian sailors who sailed the seas in them, in war and peace. The Corvette Association memorial features a modernistic sculpture depicting a super-structure that symbolizes a shipyard with the bow of a corvette emerging through a wave and thrusting seaward, seeking the element in which it is to serve. "In this historic maritime setting between the sea and the working dockyard it expresses a sense of naval authority and tradition, the manifestation of the nation's security at sea," the inscription reads.

The Corvette memorial also displays a time capsule containing historic items and uniforms, the names of the corvettes, the people who gave their lives in the war and a fascinating display of emblems and artefacts. These include a black-handled penknife that was used by Able Seaman William Lamshed to carve a rudder out of the seats of the whaler of the HMAS Adelaide sunk off Timor on December 1, 1942. The rudder enabled the whaler, containing 29 survivors to get within 150 kms of Darwin where they were rescued by HMAS Kalgoorlie. Corvette

Association holds regular memorial days on this very site. As you continue past the Corvette memorial, with the water of the harbour almost lapping at your feet, you reach the FIMA Building, a long structure with a red roof, which contains a small museum with artefacts from the Naval compound on Spectacle Island along the Parramatta River, and actually marks the beginning of the Heritage Trail.



Passing through the building you ascend to a higher level by stairway or wheelchair-accessible hydraulic lift. This brings you to a landscaped knoll and a dedicated pathway with signs along the way explaining something of the history of Garden Island and the historic sites. Highest point of the island is the old signals building which was used to coordinate signals from up and down the coast. From the newly re-created lookout you can enjoy breathtaking 360-degree views as far east as The Heads and the foreshores all around the harbour and the city skyline.

A mix of natural bushland and exotic plants provide a peaceful and beautiful haven. You can enjoy lovely harbour scenes through the trees as well as such

features as the rock carvings and the original vegetable plots that gave Garden Island its name. (Actually it ceased to be an island during World War 11 when a graving dock was built to provide a place for US warships to come in for repairs and maintenance during the hostilities in the Pacific. The dock links the island with the mainland, but that part of the island remains a secured defence establishment and sealed off from the Heritage Trail). You can also glimpse Australia's first ever grass tennis courts which are used these days by naval personnel and a cleared area available for marquee functions during daylight hours. The walk brings you back to the ferry wharf for the short trip back across the water to Circular Quay in Sydney Cove once traversed by the crewmembers of the First Fleet. The Garden Island walk is a memorable experience and certainly conducive to lingering over the views and relaxing under the trees.

